

# HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS

## Give Warmth From the Heart This Holiday Season

(NAPSA)—The holidays are a joyous time for friends and family to get together and share gifts, laughter and memories. In between purchasing thoughtful presents and planning celebrations, there are many ways that you and your family can share your festive spirit with those less-fortunate this holiday season.

Showing compassion for others and giving back to the community are values that many parents try to introduce to their children at a young age. And according to Dr. Harriet Mosatche, senior director of research and program for Girl Scouts of the USA, the holidays are a perfect time to inspire your kids to be charitable and make a difference in the lives of others. To help parents do just that, Dr. Mosatche offers the following tips:

**Spread Good Cheer.** For some, the holidays can be a lonely time and small deeds can make a big impact. Dr. Mosatche recommends encouraging your kids to reach out to people who may be experiencing feelings of isolation. Youngsters can design holiday cards for residents of local nursing homes, while teenagers can offer free babysitting to recently single parents—gestures that may inspire others to get into the holiday spirit.

**Put Goodwill Into Action.** Kids tend to take their cues from their parents so be sure to set a good example and exhibit the kind of behaviors you want them to learn. One great way to encourage community involvement is for parents to volunteer their own time at a local charity and bring the kids



along to help out. Volunteering can be a great bonding experience for the entire family.

**Join in the Fun.** Many organizations hold annual charitable events such as coat and toy drives, which require lots of manpower and frequently rely on volunteers for assistance. One Girl Scout troop spent some quality time together collecting used shoes and having them repaired for needy people overseas.

**Look to the Wish List.** Talk with your child about what he or she deems as “fun.” An activity that your child enjoys may inspire a unique opportunity for him or her to reach out to others. For example, one talented Girl Scout collected used instruments for kids who could not afford them and even offered to provide lessons.

Encouraging your children to give from their hearts this season can be a truly rewarding experience, and one which could very well become a favorite holiday tradition that you and your child can share for years to come.